

"Hearts, Flowers and Humbug!"

Text: I Peter 3:10-12, "Anyone who wants to have a happy life and to enjoy prosperity must banish malice from his tongue, deceitful conversation from his lips; he must ~~yield~~ never yield to evil but must practice good; he must seek peace and pursue it. Because the face of the Lord frowns on all men, but the eyes of the Lord are turned towards the virtuous."

Today is Mother's Day. Good old Mom will be wined and dined as magnificently as the average Son or Daughters wallet can stand the ~~strain~~ ^{STRAIN}. All week long I have been hearing an ad by Bell Telephone to place your calls early to mother so you can get through. I even considered calling her at about 4:00 A.M., but I don't think she would have appreciated that.

But this morning is also the climax of Christian Family Week and today is known as the Festival of the Christian home. For the past few years the practice of devoting a sermon to just Mother's has been frowned upon. So instead the day has been expanded to Family Life Sunday, or Home Interpersonal Relationships Day, or A Period For The RE-evaluation of Domestic Communication Between Parents and Children, or Father, Mother, Children and Their Relationship To The Church, or ^{WHICH IS JUST AS WELL,} whatever. We could go on, but I think one individual has summed it up beautifully when he wrote the poem entitled, "All of the Women of the World Belong to One or the Other of Two Classifications." The poem is very short and it reads:

"There are mothers
Then there are others."

Let me read you a letter that was sent to a minister of a large church in the Midwest.
(Letter from A Teen aged pregnant girl.)

The minister added that the letter came from the very town in which he lived and in which his church was located. He said that in the letter there is the opportunity to look at three generations of mothers. How do you like them? Aren't they wonderful people to be

entrusted with raising children? This is one reason why I deplore this hypocritical ~~the~~ day. Anyone who truly loves and obeys his or her parents doesn't need a special day for it. Perhaps this is why we have in our present age come to the point where we can coin some humorous phrases about that national institution known as motherhood. Here are just a few: Mother's Day is the day when we remember to tell our spouse to remember to remind us to remember to remind Mother that she is remembered on Mother's Day.

or "A mother is a female who forgets to take her pill."

or "A mother who has trained her son well is one who when she asks for a screw driver, he brings her the orange juice and gin."

or "A mother is a boy's best friend, if he gets home late enough to find her there."

or "A mother is one who has learned to hold both a cigarette and a safety pin in her mouth at the same time."

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES.

But you see the home is the most important institution in our world today. It isn't just the ability to have children, because even a woman confined to a mental institution who is completely healthy otherwise, can have a baby. Thus it is not so important that a woman can have children, but what kind of a parent will she be?

Peter was admonishing the women of his day in this respect. He was telling them ~~knowing~~ not only to be obedient wives, but to be an example for their husbands. He was saying to them something like: "Look, perhaps you're married to a fellow who is not a Christian, may be he doesn't believe in Christ. If this is the case, the way to win him over is to live as a Christian." He was saying that they should not be so concerned with how their hair was fixed, or if they were dressed in the latest fashions. He said, "Do not dress up for show; doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart."

This is good advice for us today as well. We are living in a world that seems obsessed with looks. We spend more on cosmetics

and perfumes than any other nation in the world. I'm not just talking about women, but men as well. Madison Avenue has decreed in the past few years that men must have changing fashions just like the women. So now each year we are being tempted to wear new cuts of suits and shirts and now even ^{WIFED} shoes. What they are not saying is that this is being done so they can make more money. Unfortunately many people are fooled into thinking that this is because someone is really concerned how we men look.

Looks today are so important. ^{MEN &} Women are getting facelifts to ~~get rid of wrinkles~~ remove the wrinkles, because wrinkles spell age, and people don't want to act their age. A minister was telling me this past week he had attended a meeting in Baltimore that is held each year at this time, ~~Each~~ ^{Each} year it has a different theme. This years theme had to do with surgery and ~~helping~~ ^{& THROUGH IT} people in it. But one portion ^{WAS SHOWN} of it had to do with plastic surgery and slides, ^{WAS GIVEN} and a lecture ~~ON~~ ^{ON} how plastic surgeons are implanting silicone into womens breasts in order to make them shaplier. Now what this has to do with helping a clergyman perform his ministry I can't say. But it seems to me that no matter where we turn we are confronted with the urge to look so much better, dress so much better, and the betterment of our lives is something that is not discussed.

It is amazing how many people I have talked to about coming to church and who have told me they would come to church, "if only they had the right clothes." I would like someone to show me where it states in the Bible that we must dress or look a certain way. ^{PERHAPS WE CHURCH PEOPLE NEED TO Ponder THE IMAGE WE CREATE AS TO DRESS.} Jesus said, "Take no thought what you should wear or eat," etc."

What should be of more importance is the heart.

In school little Martha always placed her hand on top of her head when the class recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The teacher asked her why she did this and she replied, "Well, that's where my heart is. My mother always pats me on the head and says, "Bless your little heart.'"

The little girl may be confused, but where is our heart? Is it involved in showing others our Christianity? Or is it in how we look, or what is the latest in clothing we can buy?

Last week we heard about love. Well, love is one of the most important ingredients in the family as well as in the world. In the newspaper each evening is a little cartoon that tells what love is. Here are a few examples of what people are saying that love is:

"Love is emotion sickness."

"Love is the lasting tender affection shared between two drunks."

"Love is like running down the street naked. You can be forgiven on the grounds of insanity."

"Love is what you try hardest to find before the bar closes."

"Love is what makes women shave their legs."

"Love is a vacation from reality."

"Love is what causes babies, and so does carelessness."

"Love is what makes all mothers seem like good cooks."

Levely aren't they? But ~~they~~^{THEY} mostly have a ring of truth about them. We want to show love, and the only way we can show it is to dedicate a certain day of the year to do this. I think life has come to the ultimate tragedy when we are reduced to this perversion. Do you love your mother because today is May 13th and mother's Day? Will you love your Father on June 17th because it is Father's Day? Will you love your family because today is also the Festival of the Christian Home? It's absurd isn't it?

15/17

Why does God love us? ~~Because~~¹ Because it is Easter or Christmas or Thanksgiving, or New Year's? Of course not. He loves us because He loves us, period. No special observances or no special days can change that. And just as God loves us because He is really concerned about you and me, so should we love one another. So should we love our mother and our father and our families. Not because of a special day, but because we want to love. Hearts and flowers are nice sentiments

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MOTHER'S DAY May 12, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MRS. CYNTHIE SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAULA STEPHENSON, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "CANATINA" RAFF
"CABALETTA" LACK

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 12 "FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

*ACCOLITION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "CHRIST, WE ARE GLAD TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR KINGDOM, AND WE JOYFULLY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE WHICH OUR MEMBERSHIP SETS BEFORE US. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THAT CHALLENGE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, IN ORDER TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS WITH YOU AND ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST. JOIN US AS WE SEARCH OUR HEARTS AND WILLS, THAT WE MAY KNOW OUR SHORTCOMINGS. SEARCH OUR DESIRES AND AMBITIONS WITH US, THAT WE MAY KNOW IF THEY ARE PURE, SINCERE, AND WORTHY OF FULFILLMENT. ACCEPT OUR HONEST SEARCHING AS OUR CONFESSION IN CHRIST. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PROVERBS 31: 10-31

HYMN No. 390 "COME, LET US JOIN WITH FAITHFUL SOUL"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY: "LULLARY"

BRAMMS

ANTHEM: "IN PASTURES GREEN" - YOUTH CHOIR -

SOLO - LLOYD LINK

- BY ALLENE K. BIXBY

SERMON: "MOTHERS AND OTHERS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 11 "YE SERVANTS OF GOD"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

BARNES

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. LOUIS ZUBIK IN MEMORY OF THEIR "MOTHERS"

REBBIE ZUBIK AND MABEL JONES.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW,

MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE

DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO

AND MARY ANN SNOW.

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. JUDY MASSERT - 560; MR. HERMAN

LIPPOLD - 377; MRS. MARY YOUNG.

> THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 224.

THE CLOSING HYMN TODAY YE SERVANTS OF GOD IS THE

"NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS' HYMN OF THE MONTH

FOR MAY". TODAY IS THE CLOSE OF NATIONAL MUSIC

WEEK.

WE WISH TO THANK MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON FOR PLAYING

THE PIANO TODAY.

MARIE STAUFFER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION

FOR ALL THE CARDS AND VISITORS AND PASTOR LINK'S

VISITS AND PRAYERS, WHILE SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

GEORGE EICHORN WANTS TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO SENT

HIM CARDS - REMEMBERED HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS AND FOR

THE PASTOR FOR HIS CALLS.

THE FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG

ADVOCATE OF MUSIC IN RELIGION AND THIS YEAR'S THEME:

"MUSIC ENHANCES LIFE" NOT ONLY SUGGESTS THE BEAUTY

AND PLEASURE THAT MUSIC CAN BRING TO ONE'S LIFE, BUT

ALSO REMINDS US OF THE GREAT LOVE OF OUR CREATOR,

FROM WHOM THIS BEAUTIFUL GIFT HAS COME JUST FOR OUR

VERY JOY OF IT. *Seymour G. G.*

Reached another milestone this week - 6000.

SCRIP: 1 PETER 3:1-12; SERM: "MOTHERS & OTHERS"

~~ILUS MICH, FLORIDA, HOLLYWOOD) #1~~

~~W/ANATIN MOTHERS DAY/FAMILY UN/STC/2~~

BGIN EXAMPLS SHO BRKDN FAMLYS AS V.P. DAN QUAYLE PT OUT US LAFF AT

NOW IT POLIT COREC 2SPK THIS & EVN OCUPANT WHIT HOUS SEZ IT
WHLB ISSUE IN NOV ELECTIN - BUT WIL IT BRING BOUT CHANG?
MUS WAIT & C

PETER SETS TH/STANDARD FOR TH/HOME IN THIS SCRIP

~~VS 12=4 GUD HOME STARTS W/MARAG~~

~~(2222 2222 & 12222 22222)~~

32ENRATINS MOTHERS • HOW DO U LIKE THEM??

~~422 12 6 SUBMISSIN - HOW SOCIETY LKS AT THIS 2DAY~~

PERHAPS THIS WHY HAV THEZ DEFINITINS OF MOTHERS ----

~~(2222 MOTHERS & MOTHERS DAY) #4~~

~~422 7 NOTICE - ADVIC APPY/GIVN 2HUSBS & MEN~~

~~VS 8 NOTIC WORD=COMPASSIN & IT MEANS 2B SYMPATHETIC~~

SYMPATHIZ W/OTHERS PROBS

& HOW CAN U B SYMP?? ~~2222~~

~~(2222 MARTHA, HAND ON REB, BCUZ HART THER) #5~~

MUS HAV A HART/FEELINGS 4FEELINGS OF OTHERS

~~422 9 12=THIS GOLDEN RULE - DO UNTO OTHERS AS ~~2222~~ U WUD HAV DO~~

BUT SOCIETY HAS REVERS ALL THIS

IT DO 2THEM B4THEY CAN DO IT TO U

~~(2222 WOMEN BUSINES, BUT MUS 2222 MOTHER 2B COMPLETELY FULFILLD)~~

~~22222222 WOMEN 2222 MOTHERS, NO FATHER~~

~~2222 2222 FATHERS & DESERT WOMEN & CHILDREN~~

~~(2222 MOTHER & OTHER OUTSIDE WORK - KAREN CAVALERI) #6~~

~~422 12=G WIL BLES WAT U DO THAT IS RT~~

KNOWS UR NEEDS & IF U ENTRUST 2HIM, HE WIL ANSR

THIS DAY 2HONOR MOTHERS, BUT HOW MANY REALY DO??

HOW MANY DO THINGS OUT OF SENS OBLIGATIN BCUZ ADVERT/COMMERC

~~(2222 MAN, CTR & ROOB, 22222222 & 2222 2222 IN PERSON) #7~~

CELEBRAT 2222 W/LUV ONES

SPEND TIM 2222, NOT BCUZ U SHAMD INTO IT, BUT BCUZ U WANT TO

LUV ONE ANOTHER

BUT DONT 4GET 2THANK G 4ALL U HAV

SHAR UR LUV W/GOD 4WAT HE HAS DUN 4US

IT'S WORTH A TRY & MAYB TH/START OF CHANG OUR SOCIETY

COMMUNITY MIRLE CHURCH - SAGMORE, PA. - MAY 12, 1996

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*RESPONSIVE READING #14

*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

*HMMX PASTORAL PRAYER

*SERM HYM

SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3:1-12

SERMON: "MOTHERS AND OTHERS"

ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER - 5/12/74

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

MARY - RECUP

JOHN - RABBIT

SHIRLEY -

HEATHER -

JEAN

These few exams
 But U see, home most import inst in world
 Isn't ability have children,
 (ven woman mental inst. can have baby.

Not import woman can have child. but what kind paren
 is she? ~~WOMAN IN FLORIDA - 2481-740 FIGHT LIFE, REMAINS 9~~
 (Read I Peter 3:1-4 ~~MOTHER 'ALMOST HATES.~~

For admonishing women in ~~xxxxxxx~~ I Peter 3:3-4
 Telling not only be obedient wives, but be examp
 for husband.

He saying; "Look, perhaps you married unbeliever,
 he may not believe in Christ. If this case
 way win him over live as Xpian."

He saying, "Don't be concerned about the outward
 appearance of your hair so much, or the wearing of
 jewelry, and fancy clothes, it is what is inside
 your heart that is of more importance. For this is
 the imperishable treasure ~~xxxx~~ of a quiet & gentle
 spirit & nature that God loves."

This good advice for us today as well.
 We living in world obsessed with looks.
 We spend more cosmetics any nation in world.
 I no talk women only, men as well.
 Madison ave. decreed past few yrs men have changing
 fashions.
 Each yr we tempted wear new cuts suits ~~xxxx~~ shirts
 etc, now even wierd shoes.

What not being said, this done make money,
 unfortunately, many fooled believing this cause
 someone really cares how we men look.

Looks today very important
 Men, women getting facelifts remove wrinkles,
 (use wrinkles spell old age, & peop no want act
 age

Minister tell of attending conference each yr Balti.
 last yr attended & theme helping peop after surgery
 Part of it was slides showing silicone injections
 into womens breasts to make more shapely.

What this has do help minister perform his ministry
 better I no know.
 But every where we turn, we confronted with urge
 look better, dress better, & bettering of lives
 never mentioned.

Azazed how many peop talk to tell me, "I would go
 to church if only had proper clothes."
 I would like someone tell me where in Bible it says
 we need to dress or look a certain way come Gods
 house.

"Mothers And Others!"

Tex.: I Peter 3:3-4,

"Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding
 of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes,
 but let it be the hidden person of the heart with
 the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit
 which in God's sight is very precious."

Today Mother's Day

Good old Mom will be winned & dined as magnificently
 as average son or datters wallet can stand strain
~~not so good as the old days when Mom was the only one~~
~~to be so well served~~

~~the old days when Mom was the only one to be so well served~~

~~the old days when Mom was the only one to be so well served~~

~~the old days when Mom was the only one to be so well served~~
 climax Xpian fam wk
 Past few yrs devoting sermon Mom, frowned on
 So day been expanded Family life Sun.,
 or, Home interpersonal relationships day,
 or, a period for the re-evaluation between parents
 & children,
 or, Father, Mother, Children & their relationship to
 the church,
 or whatever, ~~ELSE ANYONE COULD THINK TO CALL IT.~~
 We could go on, but 1 individ summed beautifully
 in poem, "All the women of the world belong to one
 or the other of two classifications,"
 poem is short & sweet,

"There are mothers,
 Then there are others!"

Let me read letter sent to minister in "Midwest,
 (Letter from teen pregnant girl)

~~the old days when Mom was the only one to be so well served~~
 HERE is opportunity look 3 gener-
 ations of mothers.

How do you like them?

Aren't they wonderful peop to be entrusted raise
 child

This why I deplore this hypocritical day
 Anyone truly loves, obeys parents doesn't need
 special day for it.

Perhaps this why we come point can look at national
 stitution of motherhood & coin some humorous phras
 (illustration Mother is etc.)

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.